THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Students, irrespective of caste, creed or religion, are expected to qualify the prescribed minimum criteria, failing which, they become ineligible to continue their studies. Students are also expelled from Institutes on disciplinary grounds.

Adulterated foodgrains under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

2215. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that foodgrains supplied under the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme to school children in most of the States are not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no mechanism to check the quality of foodgrains being supplied under the MDM Scheme; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that quality foodgrains are supplied under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Under the Mid Day Meal (MDM) Programme, the food grains to be supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) should be of best available quality, which will in any case be at least of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). FCI has appointed a Nodal Officer for each State to take care of various problems in supply of food grains. The District Collector/ECO of Zila Panchayat has been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that food grains of at least FAQ are issued by FCI after joint inspection by a team consisting of FCI and the nominee of the Collector and/or Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat. FCI has to keep samples of such food grains supplied by it for future verification and analysis, which should be available in case of any complaint(s) regarding the quality of food grains supplied.

As and when, such complaint is brought to the notice of the Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct suitable enquiry and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

Improvement of teaching standards

2216. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has held discussions with VCs to improve teaching standards;